

IUAES

NEWS

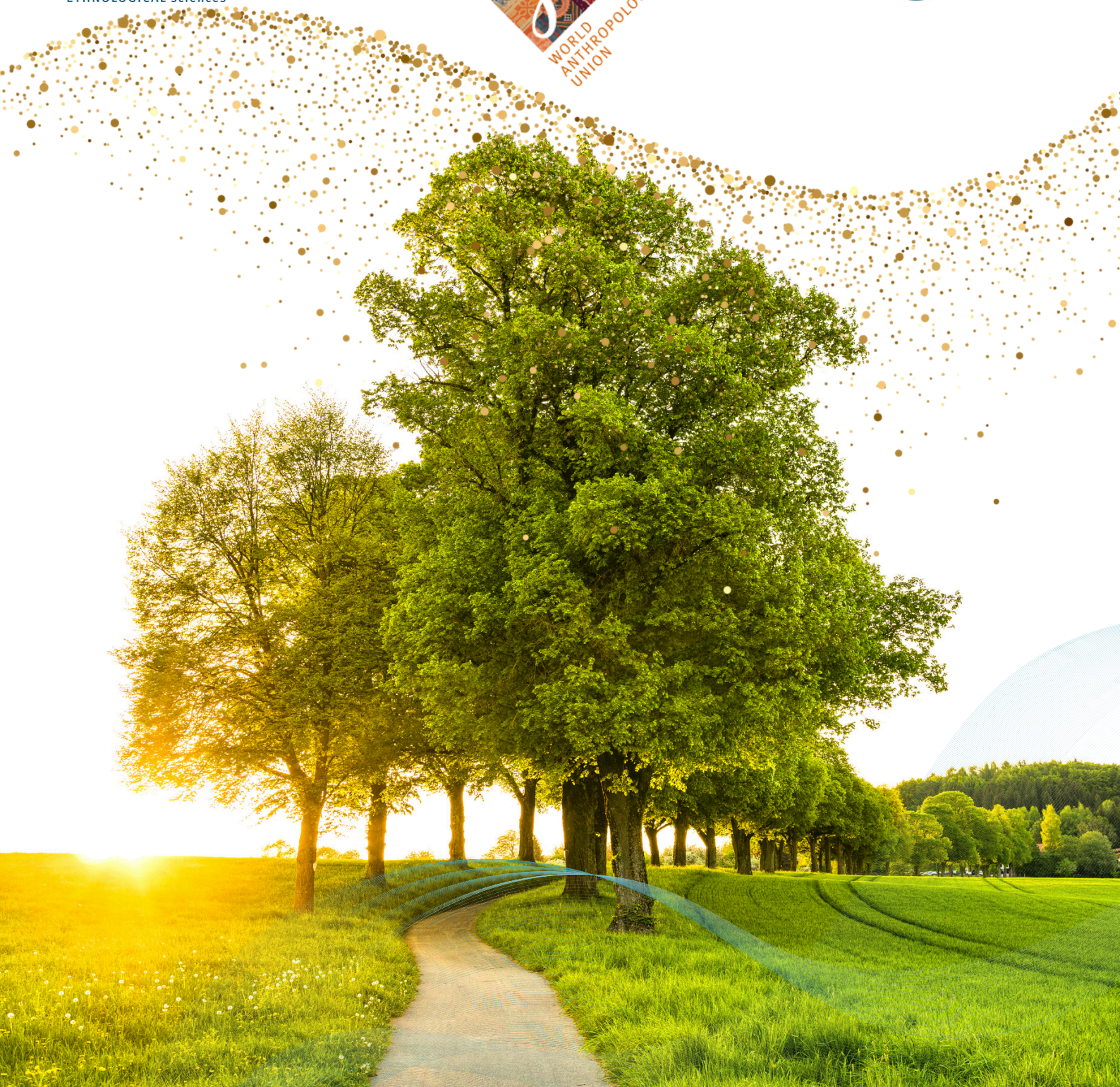
January 2025

IUAES

International UNION of
ANTHROPOLOGICAL and
ETHNOLOGICAL sciences



wcaa
World Council
of Anthropological
Associations



<https://www.waunet.org/iuaes/>

Editors' Introduction

Welcome to the first IUAES newsletter after the inaugural WAU Congress in Johannesburg, 11-15 November 2024. That landmark congress included 97 panels, 22 round tables, 2 workshops, 5 films, and 8 book presentations, as well as the highly successful *lekgotlas* –

‘Human Origins and Anthropology’, ‘Water Pathways’, ‘Traditional Health Practitioners: Discussion/Learning/Collaborating with Traditional Health Practitioners’, and ‘Public Anthropology of Food: Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Insights on Nutrition and Human Health’. 664 papers were accepted for the conference, although not all ended up being presented due to access problems for online participants, which were largely caused by a large thunderstorm the night before the initiation of the congress knocking out the wifi throughout the conference venue throughout the first day of the congress, with lingering effects on some of the venues even after the first day. Altogether, there were 2,092 unique entries (from 113 different countries). It is too soon to include a comprehensive account of the activities of this congress, as the report on the congress has not yet been submitted at the time of drafting this newsletter. A fuller summary of events of the congress will be included in the next newsletter. However, a large part of this newsletter does focus on specific activities of the conference, especially in regard to the IUAES commissions, which demonstrate how vibrant, productive and convivial the congress was despite the wifi issues.

After this newsletter's opening article, a summary of the activities of the IUAES Executive Committee (EC) over the last half year, this newsletter proceeds to reports by 9 IUAES commissions – the commissions on Anthropological Publishing; Anthropology and the Environment; Anthropology of Pandemics; Anthropology of Religion; Anthropology of Tourism; Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice; Global Feminisms and Queer Politics, Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development; and Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology. While all these commission contain accounts of the panels, round tables and other activities hosted by the respective commissions at the 2024 WAU Congress, several of them also detail other activities of the respective commissions during the last half of 2024 and provide information on their upcoming activities.

The commission reports are followed by a report by Giovanna Guslini on one of the most well attended *lekgotlas* of the congress, ‘Public Anthropology of Food: Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Insights on Nutrition and Human Health’, held on 14 November 2024. The term *lekgotla* and its cognates (e.g. *kgotla*) in the southern African region, encompassing such countries as South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho, refer to such public meetings as a community council or traditional law court, usually presided over by a village head, where community decisions are arrived at by consensus in a process of participatory democracy akin to town hall meetings in some other countries. In South Africa the term *lekgotla* has evolved also to cover a meeting called by government to discuss strategy planning. As noted above, the 2024 WAU Congress included a number of *lekgotlas* that encompassed various fora and field trips to a number of venues for participating members, including the *lekgotla* on the public anthropology of food discussed in the article below.

After this series of articles largely focused on activities undertaken at the 2024 WAU Congress, the newsletter then reports on the results of an electronic vote taken on four motions that were read out at the end of the IUAES General Assembly / WAU Constituency meeting at the Congress. As explained in the report, these motions could not be voted on at the meeting itself due to procedural requirements specified by the IUAES OGRs, so the voting took place electronically between 23 December 2024 and 6 January 2025. Further details on these motions can be found on the IUAES website (<https://waunet.org/iaues/>).

The newsletter continues with a history of his engagements with the IUAES by one of its longest-standing members, Petr Skalnik. After providing a general introduction tracing the genesis of IUAES congresses from the two pre-war International Congresses of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (ICAES) in London and Copenhagen, his article details his own activities with the IUAES from the 1964 IUAES congress in Moscow to the present day. This overview thus provides a provocative personal perspective upon the development of IUAES congresses for over 60 years. It is hoped that this will be the first of a series of articles covering engagements of long-standing IUAES members to be included in each subsequent issue of the newsletter.

The final part of the newsletter presents some announcements on upcoming activities, including conferences and congresses. First is the call for submissions for the ‘Portraying Religion and Health Photo Essay Award’, which is sponsored by five commissions. This call details the specifications for submissions and the projected uses of the winning submissions at the 2025 WAU Congress in Guatemala and subsequently. That call is followed by the announcement of and call for participation in the upcoming One-Week Photo Exhibition, ‘Witch-Hunts in the 21st Century: A Human Rights Catastrophe’, which is co-sponsored by the IUAES Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice. The next piece is a call for panels and papers for the 2025 Conference of the Commission on the Anthropology of the Middle East, entitled ‘Anthropology Transforming: The Middle East in the Eye of the Storm’, which will be held on 10–12 September at IFEA, Istanbul, Turkey. Last but certainly not least, is the announcement of the upcoming WAU Congress to be held in Antigua, Guatemala, 3-8 November 2025, with the theme ‘Unearthing Humanity: Critical and Urgent Epistemic Redefinitions in World Anthropologies’. This final article includes summary versions of the calls for panel proposals, student scholarship applications, round tables, book launches and book seminars, workshops, individual research papers, submissions for the photo contest ‘Women Doing Fieldwork’, and films and documentaries. The deadlines are provided, as well as links to the pages of the congress website that provide further details on the requirements for submissions.

The editors of the IUAES newsletter are currently discussing with the editor of the WCAA newsletter the parameters for merging these two newsletters into a joint WAU newsletter. Although the timeline for merger has not yet been set, there is the possibility that even by the time of the next newsletter in mid 2025, the newsletter may have been transformed into a new WAU newsletter. We look forward to continuing to provide reports on activities of the IUAES and its commissions to you in this new format down the track.

Greg Acciaioli
Soumendra Patnaik

From the IUAES Executive Committee (EC)

We want to mention, even if briefly, some of the key activities of the IUAES Executive Committee during the last half of 2024.

Clearly, much of our time went into hearing about the 2024 WAU Congress in Johannesburg and helping the organisers of that Congress. We also discussed financial issues regarding the 2023 IUAES Congress in Delhi, including the particular problems involved in getting IUAES membership fees collected as part of congress registration to the IUAES bank account.

Over the past few months, the IUAES Executive Committee has been involved in creating three bicameral committees to tackle particular tasks involving both the IUAES and the WCAA. One bicameral committee has been tasked to search for a successor to Ricardo Fagoaga, our long-time digital impact consultant, who announced in early November that he was stepping down. In mid-January, Tian Chen, co-founder and ‘creative chief’ of Wubuntu, a Cape Town- and Hong Kong-based company focused on Africa-Asia youth collaboration and development, was selected as the new person to manage social media for WAU and its constituent organisations. A profile of Tian Chen will be provided in the next newsletter. A second bicameral committee has been tasked to review and revise the OGRs, while a third bicameral committee has been tasked with reviewing and revising protocols and policies regarding our congresses to take effect starting in 2026.

We also discussed other possible ways of strengthening relations with the WCAA, given our mutual presence in WAU. One change that has already occurred is that as of Autumn 2024 webinars have been jointly handled by the IUAES and the WCAA, with Clara Saraiva and Virginia R Dominguez alternating organising and moderating them. For example, the October 2024 WAU Webinar on Anthropology and Surveillance was

organised and moderated by the WCAA's Clara Saraiva, and the December 2024 WAU Webinar on Anthropology and Law was organised and moderated by the IUAES's Virginia R Dominguez.

Not yet implemented, but certainly discussed is the merging of the IUAES newsletter and the WCAA newsletter.

Lastly, the IUAES EC decided to rotate on an annual basis one of its positions in the WAU Steering Committee, held in the first year by Soumendra Patnaik. Greg Acciaioli will now represent the IUAES on the WAU SC for one year, and someone else on the Executive Committee will replace him after that.

Commission on Anthropological Publishing

The Commission on Anthropological Publishing planned two events, a roundtable and a panel, in the 2024 WAU Congress in South Africa and also held a face-to face meeting to fulfil our commitment to advancing global conversations on anthropology and publishing.

The first of the two key events that we organised was the 'Roundtable on Good Practices in Global Publishing', conducted live on the first day, featuring Carmen Rial, Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima, Greg Acciaioli, Clara Saraiva, and Tarminder Kaur, with Carmen Rial and Virginia R. Dominguez moderating. The editor of *Vibrant*, Antonio Carlos, sent a video, since he was unable to go to South Africa in person. This session inspired discussions on ethical publishing, inclusivity, and innovation, with strong audience engagement.



Participants in the 'Roundtable on Good Practices in Global Publishing'

The commission also curated Panel 32, 'Worldwide Perspectives on Publishing', scheduled as an online session to be moderated by Emily Metzner, but, as many readers already know, severe storms disrupted connectivity at the congress, preventing its realisation. The following panelists had prepared to share critical insights in their papers, and we hope they will be able to do so in some format soon:

Chip Colwell, 'Bridging Worlds: *SAPIENS* Magazine's Role in Democratizing Anthropology for Global Audiences'

Isabelle Rivoal (Editor, *Social Anthropology* / *Anthropologie Sociale*), 'Publishing in a Context of Global Political and Moral Polarizations'

Ruben Oliven, ‘*Horizontes Antropológicos*, a Multilanguage and Pluri-thematic Anthropology Journal’

Gang Chen (Editor, *International Journal of Business Anthropology*), ‘Chinese Perspectives on Publishing Academic Papers’

Efua Prah (Editor, *Anthropology Southern Africa*), ‘Multiple Hats’

Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima, ‘Publishing Brazilian Anthropology for the Global Environment: The Experience of *Vibrant – Virtual Brazilian Anthropology* (2017-2024)’

- Elizabeth Chin (Editor, *American Anthropologist*), ‘Editing with Generosity and Care as Guiding Values’

New Members

As is now the tradition at a WAU congress (IUAES world congresses and inter-congresses previously), we held an in-person meeting on the last day. It was an opportunity to set goals, plan for future exchanges, and engage new members. It was originally planned to be a hybrid meeting, but due to internet connection issues, online participation was not possible.

The discussion was productive, resulting in several proposals: strengthening exchanges among journals, particularly those from the Global South; increasing efforts to post more articles in the Anthropological Repository of the AAA; and maintaining dialogue with the editors of major anthropological journals to enhance diversity among authors and editorial boards.



On-site meeting of members of the Commission on Anthropological Publishing at the CoC-sponsored event.

We are pleased to welcome new members to our team, bringing fresh perspectives and valuable expertise to the commission:

Celso Castro, School of Social Sciences FGV CPDOC, Brazil (celso.castro@fgv.br)

Laura Moutinho, University of São Paulo, Brazil (lmoutinho@usp.br)

Ed Liebow, WAU Steering Committee

Francesca Declich, Associate Professor, Università di Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy
(francesca.declich@uniurb.it)

Fernando Huerta Rojas, Master's in Anthropology, Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México (fhuertaro@yahoo.com.mx)

Vivek Kumar, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Central University of Jharkhand, India
(vivekanthro18@gmail.com)

Shruti Hiremath, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi
(16hiremath.s@gmail.com)

Onyango-Ouma, Research Professor and Director, University of Nairobi
(onyango.ouma@uonbi.ac.ke)

João De Regina Maris dos Santos e Cassalho, Ph.D. Candidate, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (dereginaj@gmail.com)

Future Activities

We invite you to join us for the 2025 WAU Congress in Guatemala, where we will continue to foster collaborative networks and critical publishing discussions in anthropology. Toward that end, please view the article below on the 2025 Congress in Guatemala and submit your suggestions for panels.

Virginia R. Dominguez and Carmen Rial, Co-Chairs

Commission on Anthropology and the Environment

The IUAES Commission on Anthropology and the Environment (CAE) was established in the immediate wake of the 17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) held in Manchester in 2013. Beginning with the 2014 intercongress CAE began hosting panels at IUAES intercongresses and world congresses, often jointly with other commissions. This tradition continued at the 2025 WAU Congress in Johannesburg, in which 6 panels were affiliated with the commission:

PN11 ‘Researching Alternatives to Extractivism Otherwise: Ways of Being, Knowing and Doing Alongside the (sub)Surface in Africa and Beyond’

Convenors: Angela Kronenburg García (angela.kronenburg@uclouvain.be); Carla Braga (carlamtbraga@gmail.com); Elisio Jossias (elisio.jossias@uem.mz)

5 papers, all on-site.

PN12 ‘Environmental crisis, disasters, and territorial claims: the role of anthropology with traditional communities in reimagining worlds’

Convenors: Angela Maria de Souza (angela.souza@unila.edu.br); Jade Alcântara Lôbo (jadealobo@gmail.com); and Nathalia Dothling Reis (<n.dothlingreis@uq.edu.au>)

10 papers, 5 on-site and 5 online, across 2 sessions

PN43 ‘Fostering Local Agency to Confront Environmental Issues: Global Forces, Local Conjunctures and Environmental Actants’

Convenors: Greg Acciaioli (gregory.acciaioli@uwa.edu.au); Dayabati ROY (dayabatiroy@gmail.com)

6 papers, 2 on-site, 4 online, across 2 sessions.

(As this panel was on the first afternoon, the lack of wifi access meant that only the two on-site papers were delivered in the scheduled slot. However, the organising committee was able to schedule an on-line only session in the final panel slot of the congress. In that slot, 3 of the 4 online paper givers were able to present to the online audience that had gathered.)

PN44 ‘Decolonizing Outer Space Ethnography’

Convenors: Hanna Nieber (nieber@eth.mpg.de); Anton Nikolotov (nikolotov.anton@googlemail.com); Anna Lisa Ramella (anna.ramella@uni-koeln.de); and Alana Osbourne (alana.osbourne@ru.nl)

8 papers, 1 on-site and 7 online, across 3 sessions.

PN71 ‘Facing the more-than-human: multispecies approach in historical anthropology’

Convenors: Mark Harris (mh25@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Nádia Farage (nfarage@gmail.com)

7 papers, 5 on-site and 2 on-line.

PN75 ‘The paradoxes, trade-offs, and hidden narratives of the Just Transition’

Convenors: Matthew Michael Wingfield (mattwingfield5@gmail.com) and Steven Lance Robins (Robins@netactive.co.za)

4 papers, all on-site

Another congress panel projected to be affiliated with the CAE was **PN45** ‘Antro Radikoj: Decanonizing Knowledge Production and Circulation within Anthropology’ (convenors: Heather O’Leary (oleary@usf.edu) and Noel Salazar (noel.salazar@kuleuven.be)), but it did not eventuate.

CAE also held a meeting at the Council of Commissions gathering in the plenary hall on the evening of 14 November 2025 during the Johannesburg congress. It was delighted to augment its membership with six new members. At this meeting various possible future activities for the commission were discussed, including editing a special collection for the journal *Dhaulagiri Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, submitting a proposal on a panel on the specific problems of climate change and other environmental issues in the Himalayan context, producing a video for posting online on how anthropologists can contribute to climate change policy, and initiating a documentation project on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

CAE is planning another slate of panels for the 2025 WAU Congress in Antigua, and we would be happy to entertain proposals for affiliated panels. We will also be organising elections in the second quarter of 2025, aiming to rejuvenate the commission with new leaders to expand the range of our activities as the year progresses. More about our recent and current activities can be found on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558440863401>) and Twitter (X) account (https://x.com/IUAES_env), which are expertly managed by our social media intern Tausi Feruzi. Please send inquiries on panels for the 2025 WAU Antigua Conference, membership in the commission, and running for chair and deputy chair in our upcoming election to the deputy chair’s email address below.

Chair: Heather O’Leary (oleary@usf.edu)

Deputy Chair: Greg Acciaioli (gregory.acciaioli@uwa.edu.au)

Social media manager: Tausi Feruzi (tausiferooz@gmail.com)

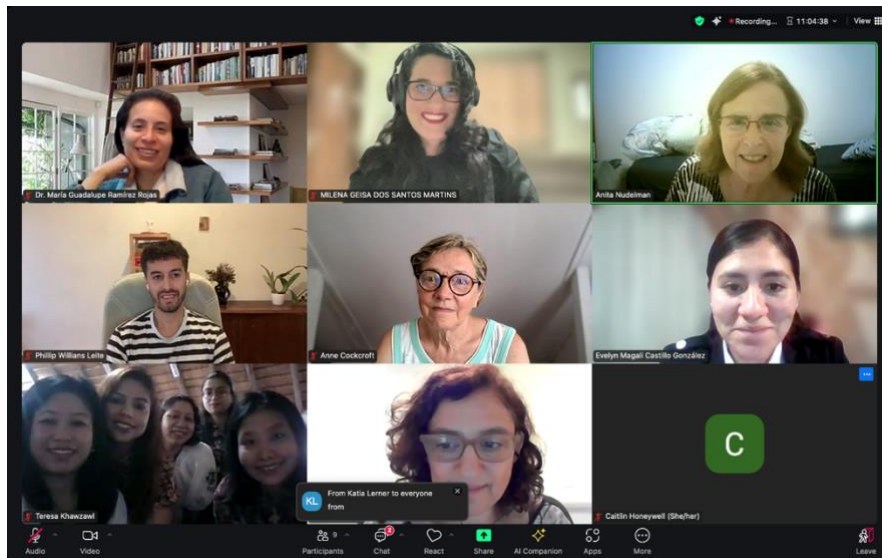
Commission on the Anthropology of Pandemics

The Commission on the Anthropology of Pandemics officially started during the (virtual) IUAES conference in Croatia in March 2021. It evolved from the Commission on Anthropology of HIV/AIDS after the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing us to include the numerous research studies and projects focusing on COVID-19 and how it affected different spheres of everyday life globally in the various panels affiliated with the commission. This included funerals and bereavement practices, religious practices (done via Zoom), an increase in gender-based violence, food security, and water resources, as well as COVID-19’s impact on Indigenous and vulnerable people. Some Commission members have focused on public policy, the reduction of basic health services, including those related to pregnancy and childbirth, and the use of traditional medicine.

Although more than two years have passed since the pandemic officially ended, the aftermath of this pandemic is still being felt in some parts of the world, as seen by the number of panels and other activities that have been presented at the different IUAES and WAU congresses since 2021 – nine in both the 2021 IUAES Yucatan congress and the 2024 WAU South African one. In all congresses we have collaborated with other commissions. To exemplify, the panels affiliated solely with our Commission at the 2024 WAU Congress were:

- PN 7. ‘Post-covid practices in food and water-ways research - new frontiers, changes in research practice, or ?’, Convenors: Laura Montesi (Mexico) and Amber Abrams (South Africa)
- PN 64. ‘The Subjectivity of Others in the COVID-19 Vaccination Processes’ (see the accompanying photo), Convenors: María Guadalupe Ramírez (Mexico), Anita Nudelman (Israel), and Carmen Rial (Brazil)
- PN 79. ‘Local Practices and Emerging Traditions of Anthropological Knowledge Making in Post Covid’, Convenors: Mohammad Pedda Hothur (India), and Bridja Cherifa (Algeria)

PN 110. 'Traversing Changing Contours of Anthropological Fieldwork, Ethics and Principles'
Convenors: Teresa L Khawzawl, Gangotri Bhuyan (India), and Rashmi Upadhyay (Denmark)



Participants in the panel, 'The Subjectivity of Others in the COVID-19 Vaccination Processes'

Other panels were organised by our commission in collaboration with other commissions:

PN 26 'Health and more-than-human entanglements in African and Afro-diasporic religions', Convenors: Daniela Calvo (Italy/Japan), Francesca Bassi (Brazil), and Ran Muratsu (Japan) (In collaboration with the Commission on the Anthropology of Religion)

PN 28 'Emerging trends and challenges in the digitizing health sector' Convenors: Divesh Dick (India) and Alexandra Lee Crampton (USA) (In collaboration with the Commission on Aging and the Life Course)

PN13 'Public authority in the polycrisis', Convenors: Anna Macdonald (U.K.), Grace Akello (Uganda), Tim Allen and Melissa Parker (U.K.) (In collaboration with the Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice)

Lastly, we had two joint endeavours with the Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, including one on the evolving dengue fever 'pandemic' which is rampant in certain parts of the world.

PN 3. 'Current challenges and debates in the field of health and medical anthropology: local, regional and global processes', Convenors: Agostina Gagliolo, Julia Puzzolo & Alejandra Rosario Roca (Argentina), Ramiro Andres Fernandez Unsain (Brazil)

Round table: 'Decolonizing dengue initiatives: A discussion on the impacts of social participation on dengue control', Moderators: Marie-Catherine Gagnon-Dufresne (Canada), and Iván Sarmiento (Canada/Colombia)

In addition to holding panels at conferences, two years ago the Commission initiated a joint study on the perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccine in six different countries. Dr. Maria Guadalupe Ramirez, the Co-Chair of this commission, is the coordinator of a yearly International Seminar on 'Political, Socio-economic and Health Issues and Constructions in View of COVID-19', in which our commission collaborates with CONAHCYT and CIESAS (Southeast), Mexico. It is in hybrid format and simultaneously transmitted on Facebook.

Our commission holds quarterly Zoom meetings. Colleagues with similar interests are invited to write to us and to join us: anitanudelman@gmail.com

We are also active on social media, and you are invited to follow us:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/IUAESpandemic>
- Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/iaes_wau_pandemics/
- X (Twitter, in the past) https://x.com/IUAES_Pandemics

Chair: Anita Nudelman (also Deputy Head of the CoC, member of the IUAES EC and of the WAU Steering Committee)

Deputy Chair: Guadalupe Ramirez

Social Media Manager: Milena Geisa dos Santos Martins

Commission on the Anthropology of Religion

The Commission on the Anthropology of Religion (CoAoR) celebrates almost one year since its birth in February 2024. Remaining true to its mission ‘to gather scholars studying the Anthropology of Religion and related subjects, and to promote debates on theories, methods, ethnographic data and experiences from a changing world’, the CoAoR had a lively presence at WAU 2024 in Johannesburg with one roundtable and three panels involving many of its new members (see below). The membership is currently nearly 40 and with the support of co-Chair Daniela Calvo and social media intern, Vishal Kamath, the Facebook page (see below) provides a portal to accessing upcoming events of importance to those working in the anthropology of religion.

The Commission on the Anthropology of Religion sponsored four panels and one round table at the World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa, 11-15 November 2024:

Round Table ‘Representation of women in religion in text and context - A cross-cultural perspective’. Moderators: Itishree Padhi and Annapoorna Devi Pandey. Discussants: Itishree Padhi, Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Daniela Calvo, Anjali Dinkar Kurane, and Pravat Kumar Acharya.

Panel 26 ‘Health and more-than-human entanglements in African and Afro-diasporic religions’. Conveners: Daniela Calvo, Francesca Bassi and Ran Muratsu (5 papers).

Panel 47 ‘Inequalities in (mental) healthcare: Critical perspectives in medical anthropology’. Conveners: Sharon Gabie and Helmar Kurtz (6 papers).

Panel 117 ‘Contemporary issues on religion and spirituality’. Organiser: Helen Macdonald. Chair: Daniela Calvo (6 papers).

For 2025, please keep an eye out for the Photo Essay Contest, ‘Portraying Religion and Health Photo-Essay Award’ (see the call for submissions in the newsletter below). This is a collaboration with the IUAES Commissions on Museums and Cultural Heritage, Visual Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, and the Anthropology of Pandemics. Additionally, the CoAoR will offer a roundtable at the 2025 WAU Congress in Antigua on the theme of the Photo Essay, ‘Portraying Religion and Health’, and winners of the contest will have the opportunity to participate. There will also be a corresponding photo exhibition at the Antigua congress.

We are committed to supporting collaborative projects involving members of our commission, including journal special issues, panels and round tables at international conferences, and lectures. Our first such activity in 2025 was Hanna H. Kim’s special lecture ‘Feeling Being Swaminarayan: Affect, Agency, and Consequences’, organised by Daniela Calvo and Andrea de Antoni at Kyoto University on 15 January 2025 in hybrid form.

If you are interested in joining the CoAoR and meeting a global group of scholars committed to innovative fieldwork and publishing in the anthropology of religion, you are warmly invited to write to the co-chairs of the commission, Daniela Calvo (dnlclv7@gmail.com) and Hanna Kim (hannakim@adelphi.edu). Please also consider submitting a roundtable or panel for the 2025 WAU Congress and visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IUAES.religion>) for continuing information and details about our events.

The Commission on the Anthropology of Religion sponsored four panels and one round table at the World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa, 11-15 November 2024:

Round Table 'Representation of women in religion in text and context - A cross-cultural perspective'. Moderators: Itishree Padhi and Annapoorna Devi Pandey. Discussants: Itishree Padhi, Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, Daniela Calvo, Anjali Dinkar Kurane, and Pravat Kumar Acharya.

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Panel 117 'Contemporary issues on religion and spirituality'. Organizer: Helen Macdonald. Chair: Daniela Calvo (6 papers).



Daniela Calvo, Itishree Padhi and a participant after the Round Table 'Representation of women in religion in text and context - A cross-cultural perspective'



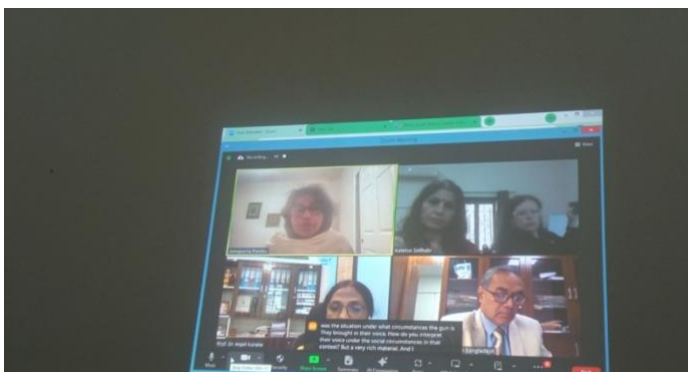
Meeting of the IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Religion



Lourens Robberts presenting his research at Panel 26 'Health and more-than-human entanglements in African and Afro-diasporic religions'



Agnieszka Podolecka presenting her research at Panel 117 'Contemporary issues on religion and spirituality'



Discussions at the Round Table 'Representation of women in religion in text and context - A cross-cultural perspective'

Commission on the Anthropology of Tourism

Natalia Bloch and Claudio Milano, co-chair of the Commission on the Anthropology of Tourism, organised and convened an on-site panel, 'Tourism, Migration, and Other Mobilities in the World of (In)Justices', which took place on the 11 November 2025 at the WAU Congress in Johannesburg. To foster inter-commission cooperation, the panel was co-sponsored by the Commission on the Anthropology of Migration.

The panel's aim was to analyse critically the relationship between tourism, migration and other mobilities. We called for papers that discussed case studies, theoretical explorations, and conceptual approaches that transcend the boundaries of Anglo-Saxon-centrism. Emphasising a global perspective, the contributions amplified diverse voices and experiences, fostering a more inclusive understanding of mobility capital and mobility justice. The panel shaped a comprehensive dialogue that moved beyond cultural and dialectical confines, illuminating the complex tapestry of mobilities worldwide.

As the call for papers for the panel elicited great interest, ultimately six papers in two sessions were presented:

- 'Mobilities and diasporic connections: Tracing African roots in Senegal' by Carla Ribeiro
- 'Tourism infrastructure and private hosting of refugees from Ukraine in Poland: Between Solidarity and Commodification' by Natalia Bloch
- 'Platform Capitalism and Labour Precarity in Tourism' by Claudio Milano
- 'Sacred Migration and Charisma: Subjectivity, Spatiality, and the Practice of Indigenous Knowledge Systems among Transnational Paiwan People' by Fasa' Namoh Yi
- 'Privileged Mobilities, Globalization and Post-industrial Changes: An Ethnographic Study of China's Overseas Education Program' by Siyu Chen
- 'Challenges and Opportunities for Black South African Engagement with Nature-based Tourism' by Julia Kathryn Giddy and Clare Kelso
- 'Favela Tourism Mobilities: Listening to Local Voices, Mobilizing Social Narratives' by Camila Moraes.

The papers provided ethnographic perspectives on the overlapping areas of mobilities, migration, and tourism across various territorial contexts. Additionally, the commission convened its annual in-person business meeting to outline its goals, share its activities with prospective members, and explore future projects.



Natalia Bloch presenting her paper in the panel, 'Tourism, Migration, and Other Mobilities in the World of (In)Justices'



Participants in the on-site panel, 'Tourism, Migration, and Other Mobilities in the World of (In)Justices'

Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice

The Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice is dedicated to facilitating impactful dialogues through a network of committed anthropologists and allied actors, both within and outside the discipline.

The commission held its elections in April of 2024 and its current leadership includes:

Chair -Dr. Indrani Mukherjee (Indian Anthropological Association)

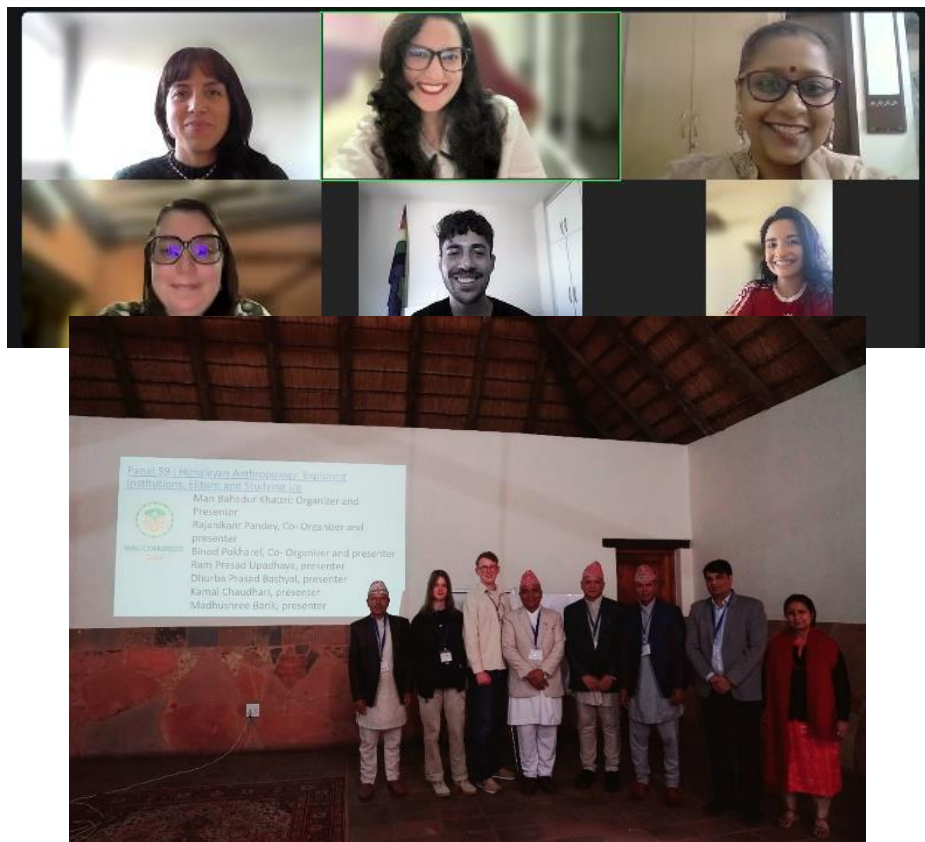
Co-Chair- Prof. Thomas Reuter (University of Melbourne)

Advisor- Prof. S.M. Patnaik (University of Delhi)

Social Media Coordinator- Dr. Loveena Sehra (Indian Anthropological Association)

WAU 2024 Johannesburg, South Africa (11th – 15th November 2024)

Eight panels were affiliated with the commission at the 2024 WAU congress held at Johannesburg, South Africa (11-15 November 2024). The themes of the panels included varied topics, including public authority (with focus on the pandemic), self-governance, studying up (in the context of Himalayan ecology), digital technology in the context of glocalisation, debates of legitimacy in the context of museum collections, decolonisation of knowledge production and decentred anthropological inquiry with a special focus on China. The panels saw both online and on-site participation with delegates from Brazil, Portugal, UK, India, Nepal, Croatia, Cuba and more. The Commission collaborated with the Commission on Pandemics and the Commission on Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development for two panels. Dr. Rajanikant Pandey from the commission represented and conducted the business meeting for the commission during the conference.



Special Lecture: Culture and Sustainability by Prof. Thomas Reuter

In collaboration with our commission, the Department of Anthropology of the University of Delhi organised a special lecture by Prof. Thomas Reuter (Co-chair of the commission) on ‘Culture and Sustainability: Anthropological Perspective on the Central Challenges of the 21st Century’ on 29 October 2024 (3.00 pm, Anthropology Seminar Room). The session was chaired by Prof. Subhadra Channa (former vice-president of IUAES) and was enriched by an interactive audience of faculty, research scholars and students from various departments of the university. Prof. Reuter highlighted the irony of the fact that various phases of



technological advancement have exponentially amplified the destruction of our planet. Yet, the global tendency for sustainability-

related solutions remain fixated on technology for an answer. He emphasised the need for cultural solutions and community participation for effective action, stating the need for strong political leadership. He also noted the role of anthropologists in calling out and taking a stand where they find a lacuna in the socio-political processes. He stressed as well the need to highlight and celebrate effective policies, programmes and leadership. The discussions that followed highlighted Indigenous philosophies, including those within Indian culture, that advocate life-principles with sustainability as their focus.



Commission on Global Feminisms and Queer Politics

In the second half of 2024, the IUAES Commission on Global Feminisms and Queer Politics actively promoted feminist and queer research through impactful events, collaborations, and critical discussions. On 18 September 2024, the Commission convened its annual meeting to discuss ongoing projects and plan future initiatives. This gathering introduced new members and presented the schedule for the panels proposed for the 2024 WAU Congress, held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

We highlight the significant institutional participation of the Commission in three major anthropological congresses in 2024:

1. Participation in II Congreso Internacional de Antropología Feminista:

In July 2024, the Commission participated in II Congreso Internacional de Antropología Feminista in Granada, Spain, by organising the ‘Symposium 20 - Mujeres en la Historia de la Antropología’. Coordinated by Miriam Pillar Grossi, Martha Patricia Castañeda Salgado, and Susana Rostagnol, the symposium highlighted the contributions of women anthropologists while critiquing mainstream anthropological narratives. Featuring 13 papers from diverse cultural and national contexts, it received high praise for its recognition of ancestral lineages in anthropology. The complete list of papers can be found [here](#).

2. Participation in the International Congress Fazenda Gênero 13:

During the International Congress Fazenda Gênero 13, held in July 2024 in Florianópolis, Brazil, the Commission participated in various round tables, including:

- Confronting Gender Violence
- Gender Violence: Zero Harassment
- Challenges of Peasant Movements Against the End of the World
- Decolonial and Anti-Colonial Theories
- Latin American Feminist Anthropologies

- Women in Science: Public Policies and Activism
- Women in Football: Challenges of Inclusion and Recognition

These sessions tackled pressing issues such as gender violence, feminist epistemologies, decoloniality, and women's representation in sports and sciences, fostering meaningful dialogues.

3. Panels at the 2024 WAU Congress:

In November 2024, the Commission hosted several panels at the WAU Congress 2024 in Johannesburg, focusing on feminist, queer, and decolonial perspectives in anthropology. Key panels included:

- Motherhood Experiences, Care Practices and Social Reproduction Policies
- Gender Activisms and Community Care Practices from the Global South: Interlocutions between Universities and Social Movements
- Feminisms, Childhood, and Neurodivergent / Neuroqueer
- Undoing Inequalities through Creative Practice and Art in/as Research
- Friendship as a Feminist Proposal: New Approaches to the Anthropology of Gender, Kinship and Affects
- Queering All the Borders: Questioning the Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality from the South
- Feminist Epistemology and Hegemonic Knowledge
- Ethnographic Dissonance
- Women in the History of Anthropology
- The Voices of Grassroots in Anthropology
- Ageing, Sexuality and Cognitions about Feminine Body
- Resisting and/or Assisting (De)coloniality?
- Decolonising Feminist Anthropology from the Global South

These panels facilitated rich interdisciplinary discussions, advancing feminist and queer research while addressing critical global issues.

Through these activities, the IUAES Commission on Global Feminisms and Queer Politics strengthened its role in fostering collaboration and promoting innovative research across feminist and queer studies. The year 2024 proved to be a milestone in amplifying diverse voices and advancing critical conversations in anthropology.

We began 2025 with a meeting on January 23rd to re-present works that faced virtual connection issues during the Johannesburg Congress and to plan the Commission's annual activities.

Commission on Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development

The IUAES Commission on Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development was an active participant at the inaugural WAU Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa (11-15 November 2024). Panel 92 'Folk Wisdom and Sustainable Development: Towards Harmonizing the Human-Nature-Society System' was co-convened by commission chair Viacheslav Rudnev and commission deputy chair James Phillips and conducted in online format under the auspices of this commission. The panel was dedicated to problems of harmonising societal activities with the condition of nature, focusing upon the exceptional experiences of folk societies in relation to nature when they have confronted and solved everyday problems. Folk wisdom/knowledge has been an important component of local heritage and realisation of local models of sustainable development within the context of modern society. Special attention was focused on comparative research on traditions of using nature in the Americas and Europe and on local interpretations of what sustainable development means for a modern society.

Anthropologists from Italy, Mexico, Russia and the USA presented their views in the panel. James Phillips examined the use of international law to preserve Indigenous knowledge and associated cultures vital to confronting the environmental crisis. Aleksei Zagrebin analysed the role of youth in a process of transmission of heritage from generation to generation in the 21st century. Viacheslav Rudnev focused attention on negative changes in the environment (as a result of industrial pressures and climate change) and on the search for ways to minimise risks on the basis of using some technologies of the past. David Blundell analysed the process of reviving Tongva heritage practices in cultivating native edible plants in the unlikely location of the Los Angeles region in the USA. Renata Freccero discussed the implications of climate change, including limitation of water, strong frosts and spring storms, for pastoral practices among peoples of the Alpine region in Italy. Linda Davis-Stephens discussed the approach of action anthropology in doing fieldwork among Cheyenne-Tsistsistas families in the USA. As she noted, action anthropology provides a means of knowing more about the life trajectories of peoples in the past and now. Marina Martynova provided insights on environmental practices for creating a sustainable lifestyle, including how ecovillages now constitute an important aspect of sustainability efforts in Russia. Susan Hascall discussed the influence of the fossil fuel industry in Texas politics, where the power grid is weak and unsustainable and correcting the imbalance of power is important. Leslie Page focused attention on the problem of losing Indigenous wisdom and the erosion of Indigenous knowledge in the modern era. Indigenous wisdom, in many cases, has been supplanted by the overriding 'western' view of the world through increasing access to digital media, satellite communication and increased interaction with peoples of different cultures through tourism and trade. Indigenous peoples have lost their traditional ecological knowledge and become part of the market economy. Edward Sankowski and Betty Jean Harris focused on a re-interpretation of what sustainable development means. Edith Cervantes Trejo and Maria Elena Martinez-Torres discussed traditions of social reproduction in the Mayan communities in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico, focusing on social reproduction based on patrilineal inheritance practices.

The panel 'Mapping Rural and Tribal Livelihoods and the Quest for Sustainability in the Contemporary South Asian Societies' was also convened in the 2024 WAU Congress under the auspices of the Commission on Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development. The 6 papers in this panel, including the paper by commission member Kasi Eswarappa, entitled 'Empirical Discourse of Tribal Land Alienation in India: A Glimpse from the Countryside', concentrated primarily on the challenges facing tribal peoples in various regions of India, presenting perspectives of importance for future research and teaching.

Apart from the 2024 WAU Congress in Johannesburg, members of the commission also contributed a number of papers to other conferences and seminar series, including:

- Rudnev Viacheslav: 'Climate change: Folk wisdom in nature using and weather forecast', in the Annual AAA meeting, 20-23 November, 2024, Tampa, Florida USA (included in the final programme, pp. 820-821).
- Rudnev Viacheslav: 'The natural and climatic factor in the 21st century: Local features and socio-cultural problems', in the conference 'At the junction of sciences: Research on ethnography and related disciplines', 26-28 March, 2024, Moscow, Russia (included in the programme, pp. 51-53)
- Rudnev Viacheslav: 'Birds in the agricultural calendar (among the peoples of Europe)', in the conference 'Priorities of the agro-industrial complex: Sustainable development', St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, 26 April 2024.
- Martynova Marina: 'The identity of Russian residents through the prism of school education', in the All-Russian Scientific and Practical Conference 'Interethnic and Interfaith relations in the regions of Russia', Yoshkar-Ola, 3-4 October, 2024

Among publications of members of the commission was the article by Martynova Marina entitled 'Identity and Schooling in Minority and Regional Languages in Europe and Asia', published in *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 2024(3): 135-152.

Chair: Viacheslav Rudnev; Deputy Chair: James Phillips; Secretary: Linda Davis-Stephens

Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology

Revitalisation and Vision

After a period of inactivity since 2021, the Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology has been revitalised with a new list of members. Our vision is to explore the intricate interplay between culture and health, focusing on views, attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, and practices around health and illness in various socio-cultural and territorial contexts. We aim to foster interdisciplinary collaboration with epidemiological sciences to understand the implications of these diverse perspectives on human health. Areas of particular interest for our commission include:

- Interdisciplinary Approaches: Extend modern epidemiology with innovative methodological approaches, incorporating ethnographic research and critical analysis;
- Healthcare Disparities: Understand healthcare disparities and examine the influence of power dynamics on health access and delivery;
- Culturally Safe Healthcare: Advocate for culturally safe approaches to healthcare, promoting intercultural dialogue;
- Disease Prevention: Identify culture-specific actions for disease prevention and control;
- Medical Education: Contribute to medical education by broadening practitioners' views on comprehensive health and well-being.

2024 Congress Highlights

Our commission sponsored six panels that included both virtual and online participation:

- PN 3: 'Current challenges and debates in the field of health and medical anthropology: local, regional, and global processes'. Convenors: Agostina Gagliolo, Ramiro Andres Fernandez Unsain and Julia Puzzolo (12 papers);
- PN 27: 'Anthropology of Indigenous Knowledge System and Ethno-Medicinal Practices in India'. Convenors: Debashis Debnath, Sushil Upadhyay and Darpan Gangil, R.K. Prajapati (four papers).
- PN 47: 'Inequalities in (Mental) Healthcare: Critical Perspectives in Medical Anthropology'. Convenors: Helmar Kurz and Sharon Gabie (six papers).
- PN 48: 'Geopolitics of Health: Intersections, Implications, and Dynamics'. Convenors: Asma Omar and Inayat Ali (seven papers).
- PN 84: 'Reimagining anthropological knowledge: connecting the less connected traditional knowledge systems of medicine of the tribes in the post-colonial era'. Convenors: Nishant Saxena. (six papers).
- PN 119: 'Gender, Health and Identity in Global Context'. Convenors: Loveena Sehra and Helen Macdonald (eight papers).

We also collaborated with the Commission on the Anthropology of Pandemics in a round table discussion entitled 'Decolonizing Dengue Initiatives: Examining the Impacts of Social Participation on Dengue Control'. Roundtable discussants included: Marie-Catherine Gagnon-Dufresne, Iván Sarmiento, Tausi Feruzi, Graciela Meza, and Abdul Kimogol.

Looking forward

Thanks to our dedicated interns (Gabriel Ziyambi and Anvi Sawant), we maintain an active presence on Facebook and social media platforms (<https://www.facebook.com/IUAES.medical/about/>). In 2025, we plan to host a colloquium on traditional medicine, coinciding with the World Health Organization's launch of its strategy on traditional medicine 2025-2034. We invite seasoned researchers, early career investigators, and students to contribute to our commission and help foster healthier communities worldwide.

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How to reach new audiences: A *lekgotla* from the 2024 WAU Congress ‘Public anthropology of food: interdisciplinary and intercultural insights on nutrition and human health’, Johannesburg, 14 November 2024



When I, Giovanna Guslini, first read the call for *lekgotla* and the concise, clear explanation given by the organisers of the WAU Congress in Johannesburg, I immediately grasped with enthusiasm the formidable challenge of organising a public event in South Africa, despite being in Italy, without having ever been to that country before. *Lekgotla* loosely translates as ‘a meeting place for village assemblies’ in seSotho. A goal of the congress organisers was for the congress and its delegates to engage with the city of Johannesburg and move into public spaces, experiment with new collaborations, interdisciplinary dialogues, and other inventive formats that could move knowledge production outside of the academic setting. I immediately had the feeling that this was a wonderful opportunity to reach a new audience.

Local contacts were immediately activated thanks to the prompt response of both the Italian Cultural Institute in Pretoria, which was very interested in possible contributions from cultural anthropology, the Italian Embassy in Pretoria, and the WAU congress organising team. The Week of Italian Cuisine in the World was approaching and fell right at the time when the WAU Congress was held in Johannesburg (11-15 November 2024). Two international organisations, the Italian diplomatic network through its Italian Institute of Culture in Pretoria and the World Anthropological Union (WAU), therefore had the great opportunity to get to know each other, discuss food and cultures and compare their accumulated experiences, going beyond commercial promotion activities. The aims of the *lekgotla* were shared in this inter-institutional project, which was sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute of Pretoria. Together we, the anthropologists, wanted to focus on how cultural anthropology:

- Can address new audiences, engage with the public and experiment also with non-academic languages;
- Is essential in our daily life and helps, for example, in investigating the multiplicity of socio-cultural processes that revolve around the production and consumption of food;
- Considers food as a starting point for getting to know others, talking about identity, otherness, conviviality, health, environment, creativity, religiosity and more;
- Helps reconstruct today's cultural complexity, hybridisations, contaminations and interconnections in an ever-changing world.

We decided to start the event by talking about the Mediterranean diet, the topic chosen this year by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World. We would discuss this topic with a view to other countries of the world and through an anthropological lens.

This *lekgotla* brought together experts in Italian cuisine and anthropologists, both of food and of other areas closely related to food, including such foci as education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity, health, mobility, economics, and others. This allowed interdisciplinary and intercultural insights on nutrition and human health first of all in a thought-provoking introductory round table discussion exploring the connections between food, culture, and nutrition in Italy, in a special area of Italy (Cinque Terre), and in other countries of the world. A special emphasis was placed on the Cinque Terre in Liguria, a region in the west of La Spezia Province comprised of the five villages – Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore – that are all part of the Cinque Terre National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A virtual travel experience transported the participants to its scenic landscapes and culinary heritage. A story telling about traditional food of Cinque Terre drawn from my ethnographic research was a way of concretely exemplifying the traditional and healthy nutrition of this land.

The *lekgotla* consisted of three interconnected moments:

1. A preliminary exchange between Italian food experts and WAU experts in a public space, the Italian restaurant Stelle in Johannesburg;
2. Further exchange with a larger public (about 80 people), a local and international audience;
3. An exclusive dining experience, giving the participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives with an international audience, while enjoying delicious Italian food and live music.

As a result, the audience enjoyed the engagement in non-academic dialogues with anthropologists; food was a way to explore themes such as identity, health, environment, and social tradition, and more; and, finally, the *lekgotla* helped illuminate cultural complexity and interconnections in this rapidly changing world.



IUAES president and WAU co-chair Issac Nyamongo and Michele Gialdroni, director of the Institute of Italian Culture in Pretoria, getting to know each other as the author stands in the background.



The Italian ambassador Alberto Vecchi participates in discussions with anthropologists, food experts and members of the general public at the lekgotla



Scholars and members of the general public at the same tables sharing food and creating public opinion on the future of food and society



Story telling from Cinque Terre: Angela's daily cooking and stories

Motions presented at the IUAES General Assembly / WAU Constituency meeting

Background

At the end of the IUAES General Assembly and WAU Constituency meeting held on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, at the WAU Congress in Johannesburg, four motions were read out by IUAES members in attendance, many of them participants in panels and round tables that had discussed these motions earlier in the congress. However, these motions could not be voted on at the General Assembly/WAU Constituency meeting itself, as the presentation of the motions did not comply with Article 10.10 of the IUAES OGRs, which states: 'Such proposals must be submitted to the Secretary-General at least twenty-one days before any

meeting of the General Assembly and circulated electronically to all members of the General Assembly at least fourteen days before that meeting or at least fourteen days before the opening of an electronic vote.’

In consequence, it was agreed that an electronic vote on these motions would be held subsequent to the congress. After the motions were formally received by the IUAES Executive Committee and the updated membership list of the IUAES was received from the congress organising committee, the online voting process was undertaken. The electronic ballot was sent out to all paid-up members’ email addresses on 23 December 2024, and all were given reminders to vote by the closing date, 6 January 2025.

Clearly not all paid-up members voted (since just over 800 colleagues were sent an invitation to vote on these motions), but a considerable number did, and the EC believes everyone has the right to know the results, which are included below. These results will be posted on the IUAES website (<https://waunet.org/iaes/>) as well, along with the full texts of the motions.

Voting Results

1. **Motion concerning the genocide in Palestine and war of aggression in Lebanon committed by Israel**
 - **Yes:** 80% (109 votes)
 - **No:** 7% (10 votes)
 - **Abstain:** 7% (10 votes)
2. **Motion on the Support for Public Policies Promoting Employment for Hijra, Kothi, Travesti, and other Trans-queer People Worldwide**
 - **Yes:** 81% (107 votes)
 - **No:** 5% (7 votes)
 - **Abstain:** 11% (15 votes)
3. **Motion on Indigenous Knowledge**
 - **Yes:** 69% (93 votes)
 - **No:** 9% (12 votes)
 - **Abstain:** 18% (24 votes)
4. **Proposal to Establish a WAU Taskforce on Legal Implications of Ethnographic Object Repatriation**
 - **Yes:** 84% (112 votes)
 - **No:** 1% (1 vote)
 - **Abstain:** 11% (15 votes)
 -

Summary of Submitted Comments

1. **Motion concerning the genocide in Palestine and war of aggression in Lebanon committed by Israel**

Comments reflected a wide spectrum of perspectives. Supporters found the motion timely and necessary, while critics raised concerns about bias, lack of balanced representation, and factual inaccuracies. Some expressed reservations about the IUAES engaging in such debates.
2. **Motion on the Support for Public Policies Promoting Employment for Hijra, Kothi, Travesti, and other Trans-queer People Worldwide**

Most comments appreciated the focus on an important trans issue. However, a few highlighted concerns about the clarity of the wording and the emphasis on gender-related topics.
3. **Motion on Indigenous Knowledge**

Feedback highlighted philosophical and practical concerns, such as the feasibility of the proposed ideas, unclear text, and the need for more deliberation. Some comments questioned the implications for researchers’ roles and perspectives.
4. **Proposal to Establish a WAU Taskforce on Legal Implications of Ethnographic Object Repatriation**

Supportive comments emphasised the relevance of the task force, but raised questions about cost estimates, implementation logistics, and the necessity of General Assembly approval for such an initiative. A few also suggested digital repatriation as an alternative.

My Engagements with the IUAES

Petr Skalník

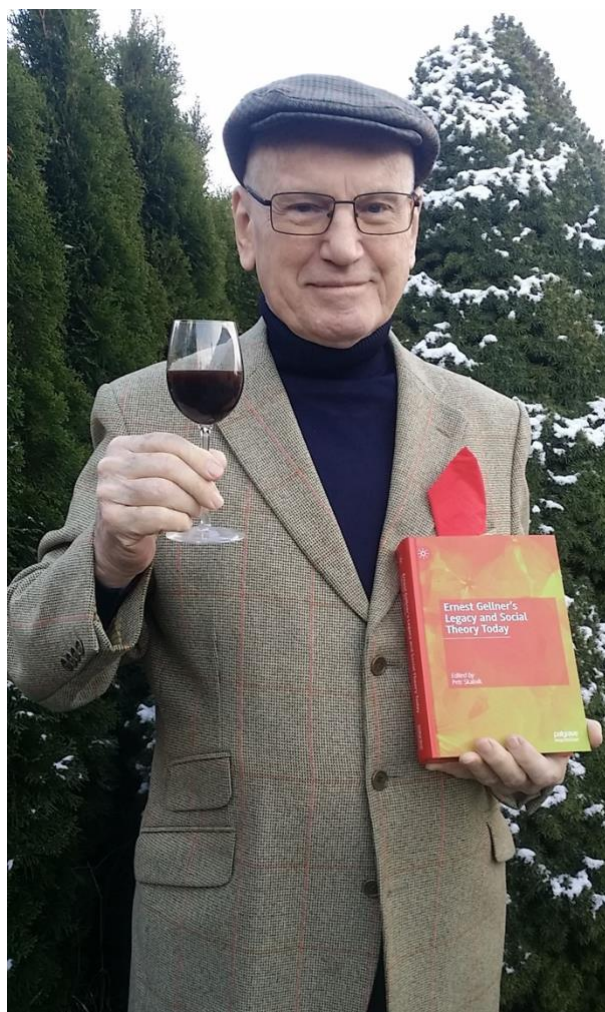


Photo of Petr Skalník by Maria Skalnikova Siu

When the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) was established in 1948, its first congress took place the same year in Brussels. However, even before the formation of the IUAES there had been two pre-war International Congresses of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (ICAES), in London in 1934 and Copenhagen in 1938 respectively. Although the Cold War was already in full swing at the time of the Brussels congress, Czechoslovak representatives were among the participants and officials of the new union. Then there came a period in anthropology reminiscent of the Dark Ages, as the next congress in Vienna 1952 took place without any participants from the Eastern Bloc. However, in 1956 a political thaw was happening in the Soviet Union, and three Soviet representatives, Potekhin, Debetz and Ol'derogge, attended the Philadelphia congress in 1956. The 1960 congress in Paris welcomed even more delegates from the Eastern Bloc.

When the Czechoslovak IUAES committee was formed preceding this Congress, my mother, Olga Skalníková, was appointed a member of it and in that capacity attended the Paris congress. At Paris it was decided to hold the 7th Congress at Moscow in 1964. The suggestion by the Czechoslovak delegation for the convening in 1962 of a Permanent Council meeting, meant to prepare for the Moscow congress, was accepted. In 1962, I was seventeen, and just after my matriculation I decided to study in the newly introduced programme of African Studies at Charles University.

My mother was one of the organisers of the Permanent Council meeting, for which Ladislav Holý performed the role of secretary. In Prague, the Soviet delegation led by Sergey Tolstov also included Dmitri Ol'derogge. From the West, famous anthropologists such as Melville Herskovits, André Leroi-Gourhan, António Jorge Dias, Meyer Fortes, Vinigi Grottanelli and Daryll Forde arrived in Prague. My mother arranged a meeting for me with Herskovits in a restaurant opposite the Academy building where the Permanent Council gathered. I remember that Herskovits listened attentively to my innocent report about my reading *Histoire de l'Afrique Occidentale* by the French Communist historian Suret-Canale, which my mother had brought to me from her 1961 sojourn in Guinea. I also remember talking to Fortes. Ol'derogge was to become my professor when I started African Studies at the Leningrad State University in 1963.

When the Moscow IUAES congress convened in summer 1964, I was able to attend as a student. I talked to Meyer Fortes and Ladislav Holý about my special interest in West African state formation. I was fascinated by discussions conducted alternatively in English and French between Fortes and Germaine Dieterlen. I remember also listening to Leslie White and Roman Jakobson. When the congress moved to Leningrad (today St. Petersburg), I was even asked to translate into Russian the speech by the leader of the Czechoslovak delegation, Professor Valšík, a physical anthropologist. That was my first contribution to the IUAES.

My further studies in Leningrad and Prague were influenced by the impressions I garnered from the Moscow congress. I took my PhD in Spring 1968 and started my mandatory military service on 1st August. I was planning to study in the U.S. and then embark on my first field research in West Africa. However, on 21

August Czechoslovakia was invaded by the Soviet Army in response to the liberalisation policies of the Prague Spring. The Tokyo-Kyoto IUAES congress was to take place shortly afterwards. Czechoslovak participation in the congress was in jeopardy. My father, who was a Czechoslovak Airlines official, managed to arrange with Air France that the Czechoslovak delegation to the congress, my mother included, was able to fly to Tokyo on time after crossing the border to Austria. There its protest against the invasion was supported by Dmitri Ol'derogge, whose foreign trips were for a while suspended by Soviet authorities. My mother brought back to me from Tokyo two volumes of communications from the the congress, which I still keep.

Afterwards a political chill called 'normalization' by the pro-Soviet elements in the Czechoslovak Communist Party gripped the country for the next 20 years. The Czechoslovak IUAES committee was disbanded. I was prevented from starting my already arranged study at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where the first African studies programme had been established by Herskovits back in 1948. Instead, I joined as an assistant at the newly established Institute of Ethnology at Comenius University in Bratislava (today the capital of Slovakia). Thanks to help rendered by my Slovak contacts, I was able to attend the 9th ICAES in Chicago. In the adverse political atmosphere this was a kind of miracle. I presented at the congress two papers, one on early state formation in the Voltaic area in West Africa, the other based on my fieldwork in a northern Slovak village. Both were published by Mouton in the World Anthropology series based on panels from the congress. At this congress I met Henri ('Hans') Claessen, Maurice Godelier, Marshall Sahlins, Ray Fogelson, Simon Ottenberg and a host of younger American colleagues. I stayed in Ray's 23rd floor apartment – sleeping on a water bed – some blocks from the Hilton Hotel where the congress venue was located. After the congress I was able to visit some new friends around the United States.

After my return from the U.S., I wanted to present for defense my CSc (Candidate of Sciences - a Soviet inspired postdoctoral research degree). When the 'cadre' papers (my personal file) from Prague reached the Bratislava dean and after some peripeties, I was told that I would lose my teaching and research position there. Luckily, in that desperate situation, 'Hans' Claessen invited me to Leiden to work with him on the *The Early State*, to be published by Mouton Publishers, known for the the World Anthropology series based on the Chicago ICAES. However, permission to accept was out of question, as I was politically disqualified. Eventually, I managed to escape Czechoslovakia and join Claessen in Wassenaar, the Netherlands, in June 1976. Since then nobody could prevent my participation in the activities of the IUAES.

The Early State was published in 1978 under the editorship of Claessen and myself. The same year the IUAES had its 10th congress, held in New Delhi. I travelled there via London where my mother joined me after having travelled from Prague. She was permitted to attend independently of me. We flew together with a landing in Tehran, whose airport was occupied by the army. The shah was to leave Iran for good. It was the last congress at which Lawrence Krader performed his secretary general role. Claessen and I organized in India a special symposium on early states that took place in the Jawaharlal Nehru University, where one of the participants, Indian historian Romila Thapar, was based. The symposium was a success, the participants being from the West, East and South. *The Study of the State*, a collection of 25 essays, was published in 1981, again by Mouton. After the congress my mother and I, accompanied by Hans and Iet Claessen, visited Nepal, at that time still a monarchy.

In 1981 Hans Claessen organised in Amsterdam the first IUAES Inter-Congress. That experiment was to launch an irregular series of inter-congresses which were to fill the years between the major congresses. The IUAES intensified its activities. I presented a paper on the results of my fieldwork in northern Ghana, which was published in *Social Dynamics* in 1983.

In 1983 the IUAES gathered in Canada for its 11th congress. Because of the bilingual structure of that country, there were two congress venues, one in Quebec City, the other in Vancouver. I attended using my new Dutch passport. With my Canadian friend Jérôme Rousseau I co-organised a panel, whose best papers were published as *Outwitting the State* in 1989. The symposium on 'The early state and after' was organised by Hans Claessen in Montréal, in the Francophone Université de Montréal. I did not attend the Vancouver congress sessions because of 'time and money' reasons. 1983 was my first teaching year in Cape Town, and it was quite demanding. In South Africa the IUAES was not yet well-known, probably in large part because of the

isolationism of the apartheid régime. However, my propagation of the world character of the IUAES was heard, especially in the English-speaking universities which were opposed to apartheid.

In 1988 several of my South African colleagues made it to Zagreb to attend the 12th ICAES. There some of them co-established the Pan African Anthropological Association. At Zagreb I convened one panel and participated in another one. I was happy to see my Russian colleague Vladimir Kabo, who was at long last allowed to attend a world meeting of anthropologists. Also in Zagreb I cherished the friendship of Aidan Southall and his wife. The Zagreb congress was perhaps the most enjoyable one, mainly because of the hospitality of the organisers. Nobody then suspected that Yugoslavia would fall apart violently soon afterwards.

In 1990, after Czechoslovakia assumed democracy, I returned to my home country. I was planning to attend an inter-congress in Egypt in 1991. However, due to organisational problems that inter-congress was cancelled.

The 13th IUAES world congress gathered in Ciudad de México. It took place in 1993, and at that time I was Czech ambassador to Lebanon. My employer, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowed me to attend using my vacation time, but with my diplomatic passport. So I needed no visa for Mexico. But I had to travel via the United States. The U.S. international airports do not know free transit zones. I flew via London, and the British passport officer said that I cannot fly via the U.S. with my Czech diplomatic passport. I had a salutary solution. I drew out my Dutch passport and was allowed to board the plane for New York! I remember the Mexico congress as enjoyable. Hans Claessen organised a session on the ideology of early states, to which I submitted a paper based on my Ghana data. The volume was published in 1996 by Brill. I also participated in meetings of the Permanent Council, representing the Czech Republic. Accompanied by Nancie González and Michał Tymowski, I visited several monuments in the vicinity of the Mexican capital. I stayed in the Czech Embassy, and one employee took me to Teotihuacan.

In 1998 the 14th World Congress was held at Williamsburg, Virginia, in the U.S.A. The congress was originally to be organised by Professor Mario D. Zamora, but he died soon after the decision to hold the congress at Williamsburg was taken. It was the last congress attended by Hans Claessen and also my mother. Claessen and I met Elliott P. Skinner there. Skinner wrote a monograph on the Mossi which I reviewed in French back in 1966. At Williamsburg I presented a paper entitled 'Anthropology of Diplomacy: A Tribute to Professor Zamora'. My writings about the anthropology of diplomacy still have yet to be edited and published.

The next world congress, the 15th, was held in Florence, Italy, in 2003. The conference fee was exorbitant. Some agreed that this world congress was not a success. For me it was a memorable congress because I was elected an IUAES vice-president. Paul Nkwi of Cameroon, with whom I had been friendly since the Zagreb congress, had suggested that I put forward my candidacy. I convened the sessions 'Anthropologists on Political Culture and "Clash of Civilisations"' and 'Chiefdom as a Universal Political Form'. The chiefdom topic has since become important in my writing. The paper entitled 'Chiefdom: A Universal Political Formation?' was published in *Focaal* in 2004 and has since been read by many anthropologists worldwide.

After the Florence congress and as a fresh vice-president I initiated re-establishment of the Czech national committee of anthropology and ethnology. The committee had ceased to exist after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. I was appointed a secretary of the committee by the chairperson, Zdeněk Uherek. I was also nominated officially as a Czech delegate into the Permanent Council of the IUAES. The Czech committee was eventually disbanded once the IUAES cancelled the representation by country and consequently liquidated the Permanent Council, but that was only after the Manchester World Congress of 2013.

In 2004 I attended an inter-congress in Kolkata, India, convened by the Chaudhuris. The atmosphere was very friendly. My paper concerned my new research project restudying the Czech commune Dolní Roveň. It was published in the congress proceedings. My suggestion to organise the next inter-congress at Pardubice in the Czech Republic was accepted.

The 2005 inter-congress held in the East Bohemian city of Pardubice, the seat of the University of Pardubice, was fully my responsibility. It was a financially self-sufficient gathering, as the expenses were covered exclusively from the fees of the participants. We had to pay even for the use of conference rooms belonging to my own university! The theme of the inter-congress was 'Racism's Many Faces: Challenge for All Anthropologists and Ethnologists'. A programme booklet was published by the university printer. My paper was called 'Racism disguised as ethnicity, culture and other: Anthropologists wear politically correct masks'. The proceedings of the congress were prepared for publication, but eventually could not see the light of day because of lack of finances.

The next inter-congress was organised by Andrew 'Mugsy' Spiegel at the University of Cape Town in December 2006. I was a co-convenor of the session 'The Magic of Leadership: Challenge of Comparative Anthropological Analysis'. For the first time we discussed the relationship between the IUAES and the WCAA.

In 2007 Peter Nas, then the IUAES Secretary-General, appointed me a temporary chairperson of the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology. I had already been active in the commission for some years. After 2007 I organised panels as part of the activities of the commission. I continued in my position after being formally elected at the Manchester World Congress in 2013 and resigned at Florianópolis in 2018. There the leadership of the IUAES appreciated my service in the commission by a special mention.

As the 2008 World Congress in Kunming, China, was cancelled because of the disturbances in Tibet and an earthquake in the Sichuan province, the IUAES Executive met in Leiden, the Netherlands, where Peter Nas was located. This was an extraordinary meeting. We deliberated about further steps. I suggested that Soheila Shahshahani become the Senior Vice-President, and it was accepted. The Chinese organising committee decided that the congress would meet in 2009.

While the preparations for the world congress at Kunming were fairly advanced and I was asked for a special paper as a 'distinguished speaker', the Uyghur protest that happened on 5 July 2009 in the Xinjiang province (also known as Eastern Turkestan) was suppressed violently, with more than 200 dead and 1000 people injured. I reacted decisively by refusing to attend the Kunming congress. My open letter to the State Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China in which I explained why I refused to visit Beijing prior to the congress and to attend the Kunming congress itself, was published in *Journal des anthropologues*, the organ of the Association française des anthropologues in 2009.

The next inter-congress that I attended took place in Antalya, Turkey, in 2010. I convened panels of the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology. My papers – 'Malinowski and philosophy', 'Early state concept in anthropological theory', and 'Globalizing anthropology: how to proceed' – were all subsequently published. I participated in the meetings of the Executive Council and the Permanent Council at that inter-congress.

In July 2011 another inter-congress of the IUAES gathered at The University of Western Australia in Perth, Australia. I served as a convenor of the panel 'From anthropologies of nation-building and imperialism towards anthropologies of knowledge for change'. My paper, entitled 'Anthropology Will Have to Revolutionize itself or Become an Obsolete Relic of the Past', was published in the collection *Anthropology as Social Critique* (Cracow 2018). I also participated in the meeting of the Permanent Council.

In 2012 I participated in the work of the IUAES Commission on Urban Anthropology, namely in the conference 'Diversity and Local Contexts: Urban Space, Borders and Migration', which was convened by Zdeněk Uherek in Prague. At that conference I presented the paper 'City as a (semi-voluntary) concentration camp', which still awaits publication.

The 17th world congress met in Manchester, U.K., in 2013. It was my last congress as an IUAES vice-president. I served as a convenor of the panel of the Commission on Political Anthropology entitled 'Towards a universal paradigm in political anthropology'. I participated in the deliberations of the leadership of the

IUAES and WCAA, where the decision was taken about individual membership and the end of the Permanent Council.

The inter-congress of IUAES together with JASCA gathered in Chiba, Japan, in 2014. I was a co-convenor with Greg Acciaioli of a panel on statelessness, in which I gave the paper 'Facing statelessness in chiefdoms and states' and also served as a discussant in two other panels, namely 'Engaging Race and Racism in the New Millennium' and 'Public anthropology'. Later the same year I was the main convenor of the IUAES Commission on Theoretical Anthropology's 'World congress on state origins and related subjects'. Its venue was Wigry, Poland. My paper, 'War as a decisive factor in state origins', was published in 2019 in the Festschrift for my friend Georg Klute.

In 2016, another IUAES inter-congress met in Dubrovnik, Croatia. I served as the convenor for the panel 'Anthropologies and ethnologies in post-communist Europe: paradigm change or hoax?' I also presented in another panel a paper entitled 'How to study a major industrial project in a post-industrial age?', derived from my field project in Opole, Poland.

My last world congress was No. 18, held in Florianópolis in Brazil. It was the first world congress taking place in South America. I served as co-convenor of panel OP040 'Theory, progress and history in anthropology'. My paper 'The Czech case: skirmishes between sociocultural anthropology and *národopis*' was published in 2020 under a different title. I was also a co-convenor of panel OP164 'Statelessness and the transformations of the state', where I presented the paper: 'Statelessness means rightless and "free" to die'. I resigned as the chairperson of the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology and presided over the election of the new chair. With Marcin Brocki I staged a book launch of our edited collection, *Anthropology as Social Critique*.

In summer 2019 I attended the inter-congress held at Poznań, Poland. It was the last IUAES activity which I attended in person. The COVID pandemic broke out later that year and made meetings in person temporarily impossible. In Poznań I co-convened the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology's panel 'Awry Solidarity – Gellner's *Nations and Nationalism* revisited'. My paper for this panel, 'Neo-nationalism as a reaction to globalisation and superstate', was published in 2023. The panel was an occasion to celebrate the recently deceased colleague and friend Christian Giordano.

My last IUAES activity was the inter-congress that was supposed to be held at Šibenik, Croatia, which had to take place only online. With Vesna Vuk Godina I convened panel no. 110 'Next Generation Anthropology: Cosmopolitan Anthropology, World Anthropology, World Anthropologies, Trans-national Anthropology, or Something Else?'

Due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the 2022 congress to be held in St. Petersburg was cancelled. However, the panel 'Collaborations and Confrontations during the Cold War' was thoughtfully incorporated into the online Royal Anthropological Institute conference entitled 'Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society'. I presented a paper entitled, '"A blobologist in Vodkobuzia": Ernest Gellner crossing the Iron Curtain', which is presently being revised for publication.

I thought of participating in the 19th World Congress in India in 2023, but due to organisational shifts and heavy pollution in New Delhi I refrained from it. Similarly, I called off my presence at the first congress of the World Anthropological Union (WAU) that was held in South Africa in November 2024 because of exorbitant costs caused by moving the congress to a posh conference resort.

In conclusion, I should stress that IUAES gave me the opportunity to be active in world anthropology. For this I am grateful because to a considerable extent my anthropological career was enhanced by my work in the IUAES. In total I was privileged to attend 10 world congresses in the span of 54 years and a number of inter-congresses. I enjoyed organising the work of the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology. It was great to meet many eminent anthropologists who also considered the IUAES their home. Also, I am proud to have helped several South African and Czechoslovak anthropologists to find their way into the IUAES.

(Completed on 30th November 2024, the day Henri 'Hans' Claessen would have been 95)

Reference list of my works connected with my IUAES association

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Portraying Religion and Health Photo-Essay Award

The IUAES Commissions on the Anthropology of Religion, Visual Anthropology, Museums and Cultural Heritage, Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, and the Anthropology of Pandemics are excited to announce the Portraying Religion and Health Photo-Essay Award. This is an opportunity to celebrate, through visual exploration, the intersections between religion and health.

- Open to young scholars (University, College, Masters, and PhD students)
- No fee required
- First prize: a DJI Osmo Pocket 3
- Four photo essays will be selected to participate in a Round Table (online) and a Photo Exhibition at the upcoming World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2025 at Antigua, Guatemala, November 3-8, 2025 (<https://waunet.org/>) (IUAES and WAU fees included)
- Selection of 12 photos for IUAES calendar 2026
- The four selected essays will also appear in the exhibition book (open access) with other series and photographs selected
- The Photo Essay is accepted in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese
- Deadline: 29 March 2025

Please find the full call here:

<https://waunet.org/iuaes/call-portraying-religion-and-health-photo-essay-award/>

International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)

Commission on the Anthropology of Religion

Commission on Museums and Cultural Heritage

Commission on Visual Anthropology

Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology

Commission on the Anthropology of Pandemics

Portraying Religion and Health Photo Essay Award

I. About the 'Portraying Religion and Health Photo Essay Award'

The IUAES Portraying Religion and Health Award is a Photo contest that invites visual explorations of the multifaceted relationships between religion, spirituality, and health across geographical and cultural contexts, through a plurality of methodological, theoretical and aesthetic perspectives. We seek photo essays that capture the experiences, actors, contexts and materialities that emerge from these relationships.

Theme: The relationship between religion/spirituality and health is an expanding area of anthropological research, prompted in part by the global spread of alternative, complementary and nonconventional medicines, the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, and greater public interest in the intersection of religion and health.

Various forms of collaboration, intersection, negotiation, competition and conflict between religions and spiritualities, on the one side, and biomedicine, and alternative, complementary, non-conventional and traditional medicines, on the other side, continue to exist and form. Religions and spiritualities may also include not only healing rituals, but also harmful practices to oneself or the others, like collective suicide, witchcraft, ingestion of harmful substances, and extreme body practices.

II. About the Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee of the Portraying Religion and Health Photo-Essay Award is composed of: Daniela Calvo (IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Religion), Hanna H. Kim (IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Religion), Renato Athias (IUAES Commission on Museums and Cultural Heritage); Mihai A. Leaha (IUAES Commission on Visual Anthropology), Iván Sarmiento (IUAES Commission on

Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology), and Guadalupe Ramírez (IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Pandemics).

III. Eligibility and Submission Guidelines

1. The 'Portraying Religion and Health Photo-Essay Award' is open to junior scholars, including Undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral students, who will defend their dissertations after June 2025.
2. No registration fee is required.
3. Applicants for the Award should submit their application to the email address iuaes.photocontest2025@gmail.com
5. In the application, it is the responsibility of the authors of the Photo Essays to provide, at the time of submission, a single PDF document with all the information listed below:
 - a. Title of the photo essay, up to 200 characters with spaces.
 - b. Authorship.
 - c. Position.
 - d. Institution, City, Country.
 - e. Year of production.
 - f. Short narrative of the photographs in English, with up to 700 characters with spaces.
 - g. Expanded essay from 500 to 1,000 words (footnotes and references included). This text should include: α) Description of the research context for the photographs; β) methodology employed; γ) discussion of the submitted photographs, aesthetics and poetics of the photo essay; δ) theoretical framing; ε) justification of the materials, techniques, types of photographic experimentation, sources and references of collections used, as well as the proposed layout, taking into account the photographic and anthropological contents of the essay presented, with up to 1000 characters with spaces; ζ) images; η) image subtitles (up to 1500 characters with spaces), optional; θ) mini biography of the author, with up to 500 characters with spaces.

The Photo Essay is accepted in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Submit between 5 to 10 images with a resolution of 300 dpi and at least 1200 pixels on the smaller side of the image (approximately 10x15cm, if printed). The images must be made accessible in a Google Drive folder, the access link for which must be made available to anyone with the link, and included in the submission PDF document.

6. If the essay is selected, successful participants must submit a video version of the proposed photo essay in the form of a photo film or slideshow. The video, which must be no longer than 5 (five) minutes, must contain the essay title, author, institution to which it is affiliated, as well as all the photographs that will be part of the Exhibition. The video of the proposed photo essay must be made available in a Google Drive folder, the access link to which must be available to anyone with the link.

IV. About the jury and evaluation

1. The Jury for the Portraying Religion and Health Award is composed of members of the IUAES Commissions on the Anthropology of Religion, Museums and Cultural Heritage, Visual Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology, and the Anthropology of Pandemics. The selection of four winners will be based on criteria of the balance of photographic and written composition, including the evaluation of technical, experimental and visual anthropological merit.
2. In the sense of the above, the submitted photo essays will be selected based on the following parameters:
 - a. Relevance to theme, clear connection to intersections of religion and health, depth of exploration of the theme and originality of perspective
 - b. Visual Storytelling, cohesiveness of the photo essay narrative, effectiveness in conveying complex ideas through images and creative use of visual elements (composition, light, color, etc.)
 - c. Anthropological insight, demonstration of anthropological theory and methods, contribution to visual anthropology discourse and ethical considerations in representation
 - d. Technical quality, clarity and resolution of images, appropriate use of photographic techniques, post-processing and editing choices
 - e. Essay text, clarity of research description and methodology, articulation of aesthetic and poetic choices, the integration of text and images.

V. About the works selected for the exhibition and the awards

1. The photographic essays will be evaluated by the Jury and placing may be awarded according to the criteria established in this call.
2. The Jury will select four photo essays, and 12 photos (all from different authors).
 - a. The authors of the four selected photo essays will participate in a Round Table (online) and a Photo Exhibition at the upcoming World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2025 at Antigua, Guatemala, 3-8 November, 2025 (<https://waunet.org/>). The fees for IUAES association and the registration to the WAU Congress 2025 (online participation) are included in the prizes. The selected photo essays will also appear in the exhibition book (open access) along with other series and photographs selected for the exhibition.
 - b. Additionally, the 1st place awardee will win a DJI Osmo Pocket 3.
 - c. The 12 selected photos will be published on the 2026 IUAES calendar, which will be available in digital format, for download and printing, at the WAU website, and the Facebook pages of the organising commissions. All the photos will include the author's name and corresponding captions.
3. The authors of the selected photo essays and photos will receive a certificate, following the model of certificate of participation in activities at the WAU Congress 2025.
4. The selected photo essays will be shown during the WAU Congress 2025, and subsequently, during occasions to be defined and announced by the Organizing Committee.
5. The authors are subject to compliance with the procedures established in this notice, under penalty of disqualification.
6. The photo essays must be made available by authors to the Organizing Committee in digital version for dissemination and for the exhibition in the event spaces of the WAU Congress 2025.
7. The photographic essays and the material to be exhibited in the Photo Exhibitions must be sent before 30 September 30 2025 to the address that will be communicated to the winners.

VI. About the Round Table at the WAU Congress 2025 with the selected Photo Essays

1. The Organizing Committee will organize a Round Table (online) based on the theme of Portraying Religion and Health. The authors of the four selected photo essays will be invited to participate as discussants. The aim is to increase the visibility of the content submitted to the Portraying Religion and Health Award and to provide a space for debate and reflection on the relationship between visual methods and the portrayal of the intersection of religion and health in ethnography.
2. An online meeting with the selected authors will be held to plan the Round Table.

VII. About the exhibition of the selected photo essays

1. The four selected photo essays will be exhibited in the spaces designated by the Organizing Committee of the WAU Congress 2025 in Antigua, Guatemala.
2. The 'Portraying Religion and Health Award' Organizing Committee, together with the Organizing Committee of the WAU Congress 2025, may adjust the schedule, whenever it deems appropriate, so that the works are shown before and after panels, round tables, debates, workshops and other activities, with the aim of broad dissemination.
3. The strategy and parameters for the assembly and exhibition of the photographic essays will be agreed upon between authors and the 'Portraying Religion and Health Award' Organizing Committee, based on exhibition spaces and the curatorial work of the Organizing Committee.
4. An online meeting with the selected authors will be held to plan the assembly of the exhibitions of photographic essays.
5. The responsibility and cost of producing the photographs for the exhibition will be the responsibility of the authors, with partial funding by the Organizing Committee for the Portraying Religion and Health Award.

VIII. About Portraying Religion and Health Award panel sessions

1. The Organizing Committee may, at its discretion, organise further Portraying Religion and Health Award panel sessions, aiming both to increase the visibility of the productions submitted to the Portraying Religion

and Health Award and to provide a space for debate and reflection on the relationship between visual methods and the portrayal of the intersection of religion and health in ethnography.

2. The Portraying Religion and Health Award Organizing Committee has the prerogative to organise such sessions in the manner it deems most appropriate.

IX. Conditions

1. The 'Portraying Religion and Health Award' Organizing Committee is not responsible for any technical problems in the exhibition of the works, resulting from errors or defects in the original files, or problems with the format chosen for their assembly in the exhibition space.

2. Works not received by the dates announced in this notice for the exhibitions will be disqualified.

3. Submission of works implies knowledge and acceptance of all the rules stipulated in this notice, and only proposals that meet all the requirements indicated here will be accepted.

5. Submission of works to the 'Portraying Religion and Health Award' implies acceptance of the Organizing Committee's right to disseminate the submitted materials, with due credit to the authors of the works by any media outlet. This includes dissemination of the materials on the WAU institutional communication channels and the social media of the organising IUAES commissions for the purposes of promoting the 'Portraying Religion and Health Award'.

6. By entering the competition, participants agree that their photographs may be used on open access platforms, including but not limited to Wikimedia Commons, and in archival, educational and promotional materials related to the World Anthropological Union Congress or WAU.

7. The Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica (CIRMA) will keep a copy of all digital photographs entered in the competition and will organise them according to its internal archival practices: organisation, description, codification and access through the Online Catalog. The printed photographs selected for the exhibition will also be under the safekeeping of CIRMA, ensuring their long-term preservation and care. CIRMA will only act as a repository of the photographs without taking possession of reproduction rights and authorisation to third parties on the images.

8. All photographs submitted to the contest will be available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0), allowing their use, modification and distribution, as long as the author is duly credited and shared under the same terms.

9. Issue and circumstances not mentioned in this notice will be the responsibility of the 'Portraying Religion and Health Award' Committee and the WAU/IUAES Board of Directors (The activities at the WAU Congress 2025 proposed in this call align with the rules of the The WAU 2025 Congress Photo Contest 'Women doing fieldwork' (<https://filmfreeway.com/WAU2025CongressPhoto>)).

X. Timeline

- Submit entries via the email <iuaes.photocontest2025@gmail.com> before 29 March 2025, 12 p.m. UTC.
- The results of the selection of the 1st prize and the four selected photo essays will be publicly announced (through the social media of the organising commissions) and communicated to the authors by 5 Ma, 2025.
- The online meeting with the four authors of the selected photographs for the Round Table at the WAU Congress 2025 will be held by 23 May 2025.
- The online meeting with the four authors for the discussion of the Photo Exhibition at the WAU Congress 2025 will be held by 30 June 2025.
- The results of the selection of the 12 photos for the IUAES Calendar 2025 will be publicly announced (through the social media of the Organizing Commissions) and communicated to the authors by 30 2025.
- The online meeting with the selected authors for the exhibition book will be held by September 30, 2025.
- The calendar with the selected photos will be published (through the social media of the organising commissions and the IUAES website) and made available for download by September 30, 2025.
- November 3-8, 2025: World Anthropological Union (WAU) Congress 2025 at Antigua, Guatemala (<https://www.waucongress2025.org/>).

Upcoming One-Week Photo Exhibition on Witch-Hunts in the 21st Century: A Human Rights Catastrophe

Across the world the repeated incidents of killings in the name of witch-hunting have alarmingly challenged laws and have led to various anti-witch hunting programs. Witch hunting remains a serious problem in India in the absence of concrete and effective laws and policies at national level, as well as state level. To spread awareness on this pertinent issue, the University School of Law and Legal Studies of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIP) seeks to hold a photo exhibition on witch-hunting in collaboration with Lancaster University. The exhibition will be curated and funded by: The International Network Against Accusations of Witchcraft and Associated Harmful Practices (TINAAWHP); Lancaster University, UK; the Arts and Humanities Research Council; and the African Caribbean Institute.

The collaborating partner in this event, which will be held during the last week of February 2025, will be the IUAES Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice. The venue of the one-week exhibition will be the main auditorium of GGSIP University. Various activities will be held in parallel along with the photo exhibition, such as panel discussions by academicians and NGO workers, special lectures by activists working in the relevant area, documentary screenings, a students' conference, a poster-making competition, and street play by the students on the theme of the Witch-Hunting Menace. The activities will be held in hybrid mode.

Those interested in attending and participating can contact the organisers at deepshikha_agarwal@yahoo.com.

Call for Panels and Papers for the 2025 Conference of the Commission on the Anthropology of the Middle East

The 2025 Conference of the Commission on Anthropology of the Middle East entitled 'Anthropology Transforming: The Middle East in the Eye of the Storm' will be held on 10–12 September at IFEA, Istanbul, Turkey. Please see the conference announcement and updated information at the following website:

<http://iuaes.ir/2024/12/20/2025-c-a-m-e-conference-anthropology-transforming-the-middle-east-in-the-eye-of-the-storm-to-be-held-on-10-12th-september-at-ifea-istanbul-turkey/>

As of the beginning of the year, the following panels had already been proposed:

- 'Games and Sports': convened by Christian Bromberger (brombergerchristian8@gmail.com)
- 'Human-Animal Relations': convened by Jean-Pierre Digard (jpdigard@gmail.com)
- 'Medical Anthropology': convened by Soraya Tremayne (soraya.tremayne@anthro.ox.ac.uk)
- 'Rituals in Movement: Pilgrimage, Globalization, and Diaspora': convened by Paulo Pinto and Gisele Fonseca Chagas (philu99@gmail.com; giselechagas@id.uff.br)
- 'Oral History and Memory in the Middle East Diaspora': convened by Mary Elaine Hegland (mhegland@scu.edu)
- 'Anthropology and History'
- 'Publications from Constitutional Period': convened by Janet Afary (janetafary@gmail.com)
- 'New Realities: The Role of Technology in Shaping Everyday Life in the Middle East': convened by Seyed Abdolreza Hosseini (abdr.hosseini@gmail.com)
- 'Crafting Culture: Ethnographies of Food, Art, and Ethical Worlds': convened by Susan B. Rottmann (susan.rottmann@ozyegin.edu.tr)
- 'Women in Central Asia': convened by Rano Turaeva (r.turaeva@gmail.com)
- 'Research in Progress': Soheila Shahshahani (soheilairan@gmail.com)
- 'Toward Visual Anthropology: A screening of documentary films from the Middle East followed by a discussion': convened by Shilan Sa'adi (shilan.saadi80@gmail.com)

Those wishing to propose a panel are kindly requested that you send it to the conference organisers (listed below) immediately and to send your final Call for Panels (CFP) by **20 March**. Furthermore, all abstracts of proposed papers, accompanied by brief biographies of the participants, must be submitted by **15 July**. Please forward the paper proposals to the panel organisers and to the conference organisers: soheilairan@gmail.com and mrodziewicz@uw.edu.pl

The registration fee for presenting a paper at the Conference is \$50 USD or 50 Euros, or the equivalent in Turkish Lira. It is the responsibility of the panel moderator to ensure that the conference fee for online participants is paid in full. All panel organisers must attend the conference. If they cannot come, a co-chair appointed by them can chair the panel. No more than half of a panel can present online.

WAU 2025 Congress: ‘Unearthing Humanity: Critical and Urgent Epistemic Redefinitions in World Anthropologies’: Call for panels and other activities



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGICAL UNION CONGRESS

The World Anthropological Union (WAU) 2025 Congress, entitled “Unearthing Humanity: Critical and Urgent Epistemic Redefinitions in World Anthropologies,” will convene from November 3–8, 2025, in the historic city of Antigua, Guatemala. This hybrid event invites global participation both in-person and online, facilitating inclusive engagement from scholars, practitioners, and activists around the world.

As humanity navigates an era of rapid change, the WAU 2025 Congress provides a platform to interrogate and redefine anthropological perspectives, emphasising epistemic justice, inclusivity, and innovation. With 15 thematic tracks addressing critical global issues, this congress aims to foster transformative dialogues and collaborations to shape the future of the discipline.

Website: <https://www.waucongress2025.org>

Please consult this website for further information on the various calls covered below and on other aspects of the congress. The summaries of these calls below also contain links to specific information for each call.

The Congress will explore 15 dynamic tracks, including:

1. Epistemic Justice: Inclusivity and Representation in Anthropological Research
2. Interdisciplinary Approaches: Bridging Anthropology with Other Sciences
3. Global Challenges and Local Realities: Anthropological Responses to
4. Technology and Society: The Anthropological Implications of Digital Transformation
5. Future Directions in Anthropological Theory and Practice
6. Heritage and Memory: Preserving Tangible and Intangible Culture
7. Urban Spaces and Cultural Dynamics: How Urban Spaces Shape and Are Shaped
8. Migration, Diasporas, and Mobilities: Contemporary Dynamics of Displacement and Belonging
9. Histories of Anthropology: Local to Global Perspectives on Knowledge and Practice
10. Anthropology of Climate and Environment: Understanding Human Adaptation and Advocacy in the Age of Crisis
11. Ethics in Anthropological Practice: Navigating Power, Identity, and Responsibility
12. Decolonizing Methodologies: Redefining Research Paradigms in a Multipolar World
13. Anthropology of Health: Cultures of Medicine, Wellbeing, and Care
14. Language, Communication, and Power: Anthropological Perspectives
15. Performing and Visual Arts in Anthropology: Expressive Cultures and Identity

For more detail on the full list of tracks and how they are to be used in the submission of panels, visit [WAU Congress Tracks](#).

Key Deadlines and Calls for Participation WAU 2025 invites participation through various avenues:

1. **Call for Panels Proposals:** The Call for Panels Proposals invites thematic panel submissions that explore specific anthropological issues. Panels should align with Congress tracks, promote institutional diversity, and include 4-6 participants. Presentations can be in English or Spanish, and each session lasts 120 minutes. The submission deadline is February 15, 2025, and results will be announced on March 17, 2025. For more details and submissions, visit [WAU Call for Panels](#).
2. **Scholarships:** Scholarships are available for in-person participation (up to \$1,000 USD) and online attendance to ensure inclusivity. Eligibility requires submitting a panel and paper proposal, with preference for applicants from low- or middle-income countries. The application deadline is February 15, 2025, with results announced on March 17, 2025. For more information, visit [WAU Scholarships](#).
3. **Call for Round Table Proposals:** This call invites proposals for dynamic discussions with up to 6 confirmed discussants. Roundtables focus on dialogue rather than formal presentations and must align with Congress tracks. The deadline for submissions is March 29, 2025, and results will be available on May 5, 2025. More details are available at [WAU Call for Roundtables](#).
4. **Call for Book Seminars and Book Launches:** Engage with recently published works through seminars or celebrate new books via launches. Eligible books must have been published between 2023 and 2025. Proposals for both events must be submitted by May 31, 2025, with results announced on June 30, 2025. For more information, visit [WAU Book Seminars](#) and [WAU Book Launches](#).
5. **Call for Workshops:** Proposals are invited for practical or innovative workshops, including multimodal formats. Workshops will run 4-6 hours and focus on skill-building or experimental approaches. Proposals are due by May 31, 2025, with results announced on June 30, 2025. Visit [WAU Workshops](#) for more details.
6. **Call for Papers:** Individual research paper submissions are invited for presentation at the Congress. The call opens on March 17, 2025, after panel proposal results. Details will be available at [WAU Call for Papers](#).

7. **Photo Contest: “Women Doing Fieldwork”:** Highlight women’s contributions to fieldwork through a photo series of 3-5 images. Winners will receive cash prizes, and their work will feature in an exhibition and book. The submission deadline is May 31, 2025, with results announced on September 1, 2025. Learn more and submit entries at [WAU Photo Contest](#).

8. **Call for Films & Documentaries:** Submit films and documentaries addressing anthropological themes. Selected works will be screened during the Congress. The submission deadline is April 26, 2025, and results will be announced on August 4, 2025. Visit [WAU Film Submission](#) for details.

About the Venue: Antigua, Guatemala, a UNESCO World Heritage site, provides a vibrant and historically rich backdrop for the WAU 2025 Congress. The city’s colonial architecture and cultural heritage create a unique setting for dialogue and discovery.

Contact Information:

Email: info@waucongress2025.org Website: www.waucongress2025.org



CONGRESO DE LA UNIÓN ANTROPOLÓGICA MUNDIAL, WAU